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(POLICY)

WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT KENNEDY SUMMONED SOME TOP CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BACK TO WASHINGTON TODAY AMID REPORTS THAT A NEW U.S. FOREIGN POLICY MOVE WAS IN THE MAKING.

THERE WERE MANY INDICATIONS THAT A CRISIS HAD DEVELOPED.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAD NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT. BUT ALL SIGNS POINTED TO A CLARIFYING STATEMENT WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS.

SENATE GOP LEADER EVERETT M. DIRKSEN, R-ILL., WAS ONE OF THOSE SUMMONED BACK TO WASHINGTON BY THE PRESIDENT. AN AIDE SAID IN CHICAGO THAT "THE SENATOR WAS TOLD AT 8:45 A.M. (9:46 A.M. EDT) THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS SENDING A JET PLANE HERE TO PICK HIM UP FOR THE RETURN TO WASHINGTON. I UNDERSTAND HE TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY."

THE AIDE SAID THAT A SIMILAR SUMMONS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO LESLIE ARENDS, HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP, WHO ALSO IS CAMPAIGNING IN ILLINOIS.

THE AIDE SAID THAT "WE HAVE NO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRISIS THAN WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM NEWS REPORTS." HE SAID THAT "WE AREN'T WORRIED RIGHT NOW ABOUT CAMPAIGNS. THIS SUMMONS TO WASHINGTON APPEARS TO BE FAR MORE IMPORTANT."

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